

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Protection Committee
Mark Ali, Esq, Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair
May 17, 2012
9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Greta Anderson	DCF-Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit
Joyce Applegate	Catholic Charities
Deirdre Carver	Dept. of Law and Public Safety
Susan Curcio	Montclair State University
Liza Kirschenbaum	CASA of NJ
James Louis	Office of the Public Defender
John Ramos	DCF – DYFS Director's Office
Judy Spinney	Private Practitioner
Cynthia VanBrunt	CASA
Jackie Zavaglia	DCF-Office of Advocacy

Staff:

Adrienne E. Jackson	NJTFCAN
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Introduction and Welcome

Introductions were made and January meeting minutes were approved.

Old Business

Susan Curcio made brief remarks and provided an update on the work of the Batterer's Accountability workgroup. There was a full discussion around the theory of the project. The workgroup hopes to draft a proposal for guidelines for prosecutors to use in endangering the welfare of a child prosecution to hold batterers accountable for the impact of their behavior on the children of the household. A timeline was created which was designed to allow the workgroup to get the guidelines ready for distribution by September 2012. The first step was to develop data needed to understand what prosecutors are currently doing. To achieve this, a survey instrument was created to assess current practices to answer questions based on recommendations made by the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse and Neglect in 2004. The survey would assess the extent to which prosecutors' offices are currently complying with recommendations that had been made for prosecution of child exposure to domestic violence. Montclair State University identified graduate students to administer the survey; however, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is needed to move forward. Towards this end, the execution of the survey is on hold pending IRB approval. The workgroup is scheduled to meeting following the full Protection Committee meeting.

New Business

There was a rich discussion around committee objectives, activities and measures. A full conversation followed each of the specific objectives, activities and measures. The committee finalized its strategic priorities; voted and approved same. Adrienne agreed

to make final edits and distribute same following the meeting. The final product will be presented to the Task Force for approval on May 25, 2012.

Next meeting & Announcement

July 19, 2012